

MINUTES

BDPh reception for working groups Date: 23 October 2025

Location: Ulm Exhibition Centre, conference area, Room 1

Start: 3 p.m.

Chair: Kirsten Schönherr

Participants: Representatives of numerous BDPH working groups, members of the Federal Executive Committee and guests

The BDPH Federal Executive Committee invited the working groups to a joint meeting in Ulm – a format that took place for the first time in 2024 and is set to become an annual tradition.

Agenda item 1: Welcome by BDPH President Alfred Schmidt

Agenda item 2: Honours for outstanding achievements

At the suggestion of the working groups, three honours were the focus of attention:

- **Jürgen Naab** received the Hermann Deninger Literature Prize for his multi-volume standard work "*Thurn und Taxis. Briefpost. Frankaturen 1852–1867*" (*Thurn and Taxis. Letter post. Postage 1852–1867*), which is considered a reference work in postal history.
- **Dr Hans-Jürgen Goebelbecker**, Chairman of the Ireland Research and Working Group, was awarded the Friedrich Spalink Medal 2025. He revised and digitised the catalogue "*Irish Post Offices and their Postmarks since 1600*", which has been available free of charge at www.fai-germany.com since 2024.
- **Peter Kühnhorn** received the BDPH's bronze badge of honour for his many years of service to the USA/Canada Working Group.

TOP 3: Topics and ideas from the ArGen ranks

In an enthusiastic speech, **Werner Müller**, Chairman of the ArGe Münzen und Geldwesen (Coins and Monetary System Working Group), spoke about the situation of smaller working groups. Shared exhibition stands, coordinated public relations work and joint websites could help to bridge personnel bottlenecks without immediately entering into formal associations under association law. He said he wanted to make a special effort to promote thematic working groups. Thematic working groups and motif groups are welcome to contact Werner Müller at <https://www.arge-geld.de/vorstand.htm>. The Federal Executive Committee thanks Werner Müller for his commitment.

Item 4: Trade fairs and exhibitions for member recruitment

Jürgen Witkowski reported on his activities to organise a **trade fair in the west of Germany**. This is expected to take place in **2027**; discussions are currently underway with the Essen/Mülheim airship hangar. The prices for the halls have risen sharply. Jürgen Witkowski also promoted the ArGe literature exhibition in 2026.

The **subsidy for exhibition stands, amounting to €100 per year**, can be applied for by sending an informal application with 1–2 photos as proof or with an invoice by email to the BDPH office.

The idea of reviving the thematic German Championship met with interest. (*Outside the minutes: As a current recommendation, the BDPH would like to draw attention to the international exhibition EXPHIMO 2026, which will take place in May 2026 in Mondorf, Luxembourg – www.philcolux.lu.*)

A beginner's class without competition is not currently considered necessary.

TOP 5: Public relations for ArGen

- New design templates for postcards and event flyers – customisable with club logos (files attached).
- Newsletter distribution list: please send your current email addresses to k.schoenherr@bdph.de.
- Maintenance of the ArGe list at www.bdph.de/gemeinschaft/arbeitsgemeinschaften ; please also report any changes to k.schoenherr@bdph.de .

For ArGens wishing to expand their **online presence**, the BDPH offers the option of linking their own website to the BDPH site. This solution is based on the model used by the Austrian Association (www.voeph.at). Examples of simple pages are phila-wienerneustadt.voeph.at or phila-eisenstadt.voeph.at. This allows ArGens to maintain their online presence without much effort while remaining visible within the association structure.

If several ArGen are interested, they are welcome to contact the association. The **one-time setup costs** are approximately **€500 per ArGe**, plus ongoing hosting fees if applicable. The ArGen can maintain the pages themselves.

TOP 6: Literature promotion and specialist libraries

A **printing subsidy of up to €150 per year** can be applied for (form attached). **The application deadline is 10 December** of the current year! The invoice and two copies for the German National Library are required, as well as two additional copies each for the libraries in Hamburg, Berlin and Munich.

According to the **German National Library Act (Section 15 DNBG)**, two copies of all printed works must be submitted to the German National Library (DNB). It permanently archives all printed works published in Germany. Digital versions, which are usually not made publicly available by the ArGen for copyright reasons – i.e. to prevent free distribution – can also be voluntarily submitted to the DNB, exclusively for the purpose of secure archiving and without lending by the DNB.

In addition, as usual, the BDPH requests that two copies each be made available to the major philatelic libraries in Hamburg, Munich, Berlin and Frankfurt to ensure accessibility in specialist collections.

The German National Library and the Munich Municipal Library are affiliated with the interlibrary loan network, which means that their holdings can be borrowed from any municipal library. In addition, the BDPH particularly recommends the traditional **Philatelic Library in Hamburg**, which has an outstanding collection of philatelic literature and makes works available to its members on loan.

There were also explicit requests for the **literature database** to continue operating. Anyone who distributes philatelic literature or printed matter is welcome to continue promoting it via the BDPH – please send information and a high-quality cover image

to the editorial office of *philatelie* and to **Rainer von Scharpen**, who does an excellent job of maintaining the BDPH literature database.

TOP 7: Advisory board and co-determination

Despite a call for participation, no advisory board has been formed. The two interested parties did not find the necessary interest in their ArGen communities. Nevertheless, concerns can still be raised directly via **Frank Blechschmidt** or **Kirsten Schönherr**.

The BDPH's statutes will be revised again over the **next two years**; if necessary, extended co-determination will be enshrined following the abolition of the VPhA.

The membership fee for direct members of the ArGe cannot be reduced, as the regional associations, as the main players in the organisation of events, are dependent on their share of the membership fee. A reduction could lead to a disproportionate influx of direct members. The costs of the exhibition stand in Ulm, for example, are subsidised to a considerable extent by the Southwest Regional Association.

Item 8: Minutes and other matters

Detailed minutes of the event with all organisational information, forms and detailed information will be sent to the ArGens and participants in a timely manner. Everyone who provides their email address will receive the minutes and the newsletter.

Finally, it was emphasised that the BDPH remains open to suggestions and would like to continue to support the working groups as best it can in the future.

Attachments

- Flyer templates for events
- Flyer template for advertising postcards
- Application for printing cost subsidy

Important note on the use and storage of the flyer and postcard template files

You will receive the flyer and postcard layouts as normal Word documents (.docx) so that you can edit the content immediately. To ensure that you always have an unaltered basic version, we recommend the following simple step. **Please save the document once as a Word template:**

1. Open the Word file
2. Select "**Save as**"
3. Select file type "**Word template (*.dotx)**"
4. Save under your own name (e.g. "ArGe-Flyer-Template.dotx")

This .dotx file is your **personal template**. Word automatically uses it to create a new document, so you cannot accidentally overwrite the original template. For each new event, simply open your saved template and continue working in it.

To generate a QR code for linking to a website, it is best to use:

<https://qrcodecreator.com/de>